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Messages and Communications

1 message

Speaker's Office <speaker@guamlegislature.org>
To: Clerks Office <clerks@guamlegislature.org>
Cc: Rennae Meno <rennae@guamlegislature.org>

04-23-20	2:41 PM	04-20-20	Letter Regarding COVID-19.	Department of the Navy- Joint Region Marianas

Sinseru yan Minagåhet,

Office of the Speaker • Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Committee on Public Accountability, Human Resources & the Guam Buildup

35th Guam Legislature
I Mina'trentai Singko na Liheslaturan Guåhan

Guam Congress Building | 163 Chalan Santo Papa | Hagatna, GU 96910
T: (671) 477-2520/1
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Gumai pribilehu yan konfedensia este siha na mensåhi. Solo espesiåtmente para hågu ma entensioña pat ma aturisa para unrisibi. Sen prubidu kumu ti un ma aturisa para manribisa, na'setbe, pat mandespåtcha. Yang mensåhi , put fabot ago' guatu gi I numa'huyong gi as speaker@guamlegislature.org yan despues destrosa todu siha I kopian mensåhi. Si Yu'os ma'åse'.

Letter regarding COVID-19.pdf
408K

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
JOINT REGION MARIANAS
PSC 455 BOX 211
FPO AP 96540-1000

5860
Ser J00/0186
April 20, 2020

35GL-20-1730
Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes

APR 23 2020
Time 14:41 ( )AM (✓)PM
Received By: EBhagwani

The Honorable Tina Rose Muna Barnes
Speaker, 35th Guam Legislature
I Mina'Trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guahan
163 W. Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Dear Madam Speaker,

Thank you for meeting with me on April 17, 2020 and for your same-day letter which elaborated on our discussion. I am appreciative of our close relationship and your continued support for the military and community of Guam.

Joint Region Marianas has collaborated with the interagency leads for federal COVID-19 response on Guam -- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Health & Human Services/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (HHS/CDC) -- the Office of the Governor and your staff on your three requests. Information received to date:

1. U.S. military transport of Taiwan community organizations' donation to Guam: U.S. military transportation in support of the federal response on Guam is legally authorized when tasked in response to a validated mission assignment received by FEMA. Currently, FEMA has confirmed that there are no such taskings validated or pending in their mission assignment process. Separately, I understand there may be an opportunity for local organizations to work directly with the Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs for shipment.

2. U.S. military inquiry into the status of the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) approval of South Korean test kits: The interagency leads (FEMA and HHS/CDC) informed us that they are monitoring FDA approval status and appreciate FDA's effort on their scientific approval methodology. Meanwhile, HHS/CDC is optimistic that current and projected flow of FDA-approved test kits for Guam's community are adequate. They report that local clinics on-island are able to be supported with Government of Guam testing. In addition, off-island test results are now being received in approximately four days. I will update you if I receive any further updates on FDA approval status of the South Korean test kits.

3. Abbott will not ship test kits to Guam: Since DoD is significantly restricted in its authority to influence commercial business practices, we consulted with the lead federal health agency (HHS/CDC) who confirmed that Abbott, similar to numerous companies, does not ship to Guam. Until this matter is resolved, local clinics are currently receiving assistance by Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services for COVID-19 rapid testing and CDC is arranging for federal shipping of Abbott federal purchases for response efforts on Guam. Although I understand that some companies and residents with similar issues in shipping to Guam have

taken advantage of third party shippers, I trust your ongoing intervention will facilitate underlying commercial issues on shipment control risks, logistics and costs.

I appreciate our continued open lines of communication and collaboration. I have also forwarded your letter to INDOPACOM for their awareness and possible assistance. Please do not hesitate to call me anytime at (671) 349-3200 or my point of contact on this matter, Captain Hans Sholley, at (671) 349-3201.

Sincerely,

J. V. MENONI
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
Commander

Copy to: Governor Lou Leon Guerrero

Doc. No. 35GL-20-1730.*